U.S. decision on supply of Military Hardware to Pakistan

953. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the U.S. decision to resume supply of strategic military hardware to Pakistan;

(b) if so, what are the implications involved in the U.S. move following the test firing of Haft-III missile by Pakistan; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA): (a) and (b) The US supplied military equipment to Pakistan in 1996 in the context of the Brown Amendment. At that time the US Government had stated that this was a one-time waiver of relavant US laws restricting supply of military equipment to Pakistan.

In July, 1997, the US Senate approved the Harkin-Warner Amendment to the US Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 for limited resumption of economic and military cooperation with Pakistan which had remained suspended on account of US domestic legislation regarding nuclear matters. The Amendment came in the wake of reports of Pakistan having tested a medium-range missile.

(c) Government are committed to keeping all matters that have a bearing on India's security under careful review. GOI's concerns regarding the Harkin-Warner Amendment were conveyed to the US Government. GOI also issued a statement on this subject which stated that the US move could not but be viewed with concern in India an encouragement to Pakistan's clandestine nuclear and missile programmes and that Government will takes appropriate steps to safeguard India's security. It is understood that in the final version of the Harkin-Warner Amendment the provisions relating to military training have been dropped.

Criticism of Trade Policies by Diplomatic Personnel in Japan

954. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether diplomatic personnel posted with our embassy in Japan have written to the Ministry of External Affairs severely criticising our economic, industrial and trade policies and whether they have also ensured that this letter receives wide publicity;

(b) in case answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, whether to an enquiry will be launched to pinpoint the responsibility for leaking the contents of the letter to the media; and

(c) whether a series of re-orientation courses are necessary to impress upon our diplomatic personnel that, despite globalisation, their prime duty is to represent national interests abroad and not to act as lobbyists for foreign business or industrial entities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Our Missions abroad however continuously report on local investor perceptions. Contents of such communications are normally not divulged publicly. Where Govt. communications are seen "leaking", the circumstances are looked into and necessary percautions are taken.

(c) Orientation courses for our Commercial officers are held from time to time to enable them to be more effective and serve our national interests.

Attack on Faibfield School in Iowa, USA

955. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the excellent work done by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi's Faibfield School in Iowa USA, which has been editorially praised even by the Wall Street Journal, as